



ASSEMBLYMEMBER  
**CHRIS BURDICK**  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 93



Dear Friends,

My [last newsletter](#) came out in the waning days of the budget process, with the final budget voted on later that week. In that newsletter, I discussed areas of policy agreement in the budget that had already been reached, with a promise to discuss the key financial provisions in my next newsletter, once the final budget had passed. You will find those provisions below, as well as another review of the policy provisions contained in the budget.

I also mentioned in my [previous newsletter](#) that, in response to Con Edison filing with the Public Service Commission (PSC) for a rate increase request of 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for natural gas, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg and myself, and key staff members of Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, have become parties (formally known as “intervenor”) in the case. As intervenors, we will have the ability to obtain detailed filings, submit questions (interrogatories) to which Con Edison is required to reply, submit evidence and testimony, and participate in confidential settlement discussions.

**To help aid us in that role, and also in anticipation of rate increase requests from other utilities such as NYSEG, we have created a [utility feedback form](#) to more easily collect information from our constituents.** I would be very grateful if you would consider taking a few minutes to complete the form. More on that below.

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**[Key Provisions of the FY 2026 Budget](#)**

Although the process was long and arduous, **I am pleased to report that the \$254 billion FY 2026 budget (which is approximately \$13 billion over the FY 2025 budget) provides well for the people of my Assembly district and the State of New York.** It is balanced and fiscally responsible.

**The budget includes financial relief for residents, including:**

**Inflation Refund Tax Credit**

A one-time inflation refund of \$400 for joint filers with incomes up to \$150,000, and \$300

for incomes between \$150,001 and \$300,000. For single filers, the refund will be \$200 for incomes up to \$75,000, and \$150 for incomes between \$75,001 and \$150,000.

The NYS Department of Taxation and Finance will mail checks in October and November of this year to filers of resident income tax returns.

### **Middle-Class Tax Cuts**

Rates are being reduced to the lowest levels in nearly 70 years for married couples with incomes up to \$323,200 who file jointly, for heads of households with incomes up to \$269,300, and for single taxpayers and married taxpayers who file separately with incomes up to \$215,400.

The tax rates would be reduced in two phases: an initial rate cut applicable for tax year 2025, and a second rate cut beginning in tax year 2026.

### **The budget also continues to provide for robust funding for public education:**

#### **State Support for Public Schools**

We are continuing the commitment to fully fund Foundation Aid, the cornerstone of state support for public schools. Total aid statewide increases by 4.7%, reaching a historic \$37.4 billion, with reforms to the Foundation Aid formula for more equitable distribution.

Every school district in my Assembly district is receiving a minimum 2% increase in Foundation Aid. Importantly for Westchester County, one of the changes is that there will be a revision in the “Regional Cost Factor,” bringing us one-third of the way toward parity with NYC and Long Island.

This state aid to school districts holds down local school taxes while maintaining high quality for our schools.

#### **Free Student Meals at Qualifying Schools**

An allocation of \$340 million ensures free breakfast and lunch for all K–12 students in school districts, charter schools, and nonpublic schools participating in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, potentially saving families in qualifying schools up to \$1,600 per child annually.

All students in participating schools, regardless of income, will receive a free breakfast and lunch, eliminating the need for individual applications or income verification. This funding, which I strongly supported, is intended to fight child hunger, reduce stigma associated with free meal programs, and enhance student health and academic performance throughout the state.

### **Other key features of the budget include:**

### **State and Local Roads and Bridges**

Since entering the Assembly in 2021, I have strongly advocated for substantial increases in state funding for roads and bridges. The budget includes an \$800 million increase in the record \$34.1 billion DOT capital plan. Of that, nearly \$1.4 billion in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 is allocated for local roads and bridges. We are working to get more of those funds directed to our region, DOT Region 8, which has been chronically underfunded.

### **Environmental Protection**

The Legislature pressed for a \$25 million increase in the Environmental Protection Fund, for a total of \$425 million. The budget also included \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act.

I was especially pleased that an agreement was reached with the Governor for a \$15 million pilot program for private well owners for PFAS removal. Senator Peter Harckham and I strongly advocated for this funding.

### **Child Tax Credit and Childcare Subsidies**

The Empire State Child Tax Credit has been increased: \$1,000 per child under age 4, and \$500 per child ages 4 to 16. This is anticipated to reduce child poverty in NYS by 8.2%.

The budget also includes \$2.2 billion statewide in childcare subsidies to improve access to affordable childcare, expanding eligibility for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), now reaching a record number of families. Additionally, the budget includes \$110 million in capital funding to build or renovate childcare facilities, particularly in underserved areas, and \$9 million to provide free diapers and postpartum supplies to low-income families

### ***Key Policy Changes***

Every budget includes statutory changes that may not have a significant financial component. These items were discussed in my previous newsletter, but to review:

#### **Pre-Trial Criminal Procedure Law**

To address the concerns of district attorneys that cases are being dismissed for minor procedural errors, the discovery provisions of the criminal procedure law will be amended to require the disclosure to defense counsel of relevant materials in their actual possession. If prosecutors demonstrate diligent and good-faith efforts to obtain and provide discoverable materials, judicial remedies for failure to do so are to be proportionate to the relevance of missing information, rather than automatic dismissal of the case.

#### **Involuntary Commitment**

Included in the budget will be an expansion under the Mental Hygiene Law regarding involuntary commitment, in response to instances of violent crimes committed by mentally ill individuals. The revised law provides for the involuntary hospitalization of

individuals with mental illness where they pose a risk to themselves or others. Provision is made for post-discharge care and peer support services.

### **Use of Facemasks to Conceal Identity During the Commission of Crime**

The use of facemasks, for which there is no valid basis (such as protection of health) -- when used to conceal identity and in connection with committing a serious misdemeanor or greater crime -- will be a separate crime as a Class B misdemeanor.

### **Primary and Secondary Public School Cell Phone Ban**

A uniform “bell-to-bell” law will apply to primary and secondary public schools, which will ban student use throughout the school day of cell phones and other personal internet-enabled devices. There are exemptions for students who require such devices for medical, educational or translation purposes, and directs the schools to provide a method to ensure that parents will have the ability to reach their children if needed.

School districts are required to develop their own plans for the storage of the devices upon students entering school. \$13.5 million will be appropriated in the budget to assist schools in enforcing the ban.

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### **Utility Feedback: We Want to Hear from You!**

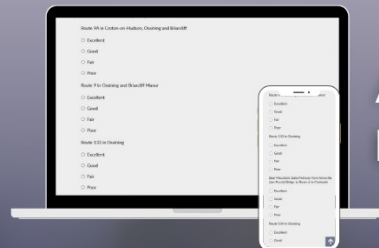
Again, to aid us in our involvement in the Con Ed rate cases -- and the anticipated rate increase requests from other utilities such as NYSEG -- the offices of Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg and my office have created a new [Utility Feedback Form](#) to make it easier for constituents to submit feedback. **This feedback will be incorporated into testimony we submit in the Con Ed cases and potentially others down the line.** It is open to all residents of the 92nd, 93rd, and 95th Assembly districts, *regardless of the utility that serves you*. I hope you will consider taking a few minutes to fill it out.

***Please note:*** If you are a customer of Con Edison and you would like your feedback to be incorporated in our Con Edison testimony, please [submit your feedback](#) by next Wednesday, May 28th.

# NEW SURVEY

## Utility Feedback Form

Inform testimony in upcoming utility rate cases!



Access it online at  
[bit.ly/UtilityFeedback2025](https://bit.ly/UtilityFeedback2025)



**MaryJane Shimsky**  
Assemblymember, 92<sup>nd</sup> District



**Chris Burdick**  
Assemblymember, 93<sup>rd</sup> District



**Dana Levenberg**  
Assemblymember, 95<sup>th</sup> District

### **Reminder: Second Annual AAPI Summit May 29-May 30**

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month, and as I mentioned in my last newsletter, the NYS **Legislature is holding its second annual AAPI summit May 29-May 30 in Albany.**

I am a proud member of the Assembly's Asian Pacific American Task Force, which allows me to better understand the issues facing the AAPI community in my district. Last year, I hosted a workshop - "Social Isolation: The AAPI Suburban Experience." This year, I'm working with Dr. Teresa Hsu of S.P.E.A.K. on a workshop about the invisibility of the AAPI community in mental health.

**To learn more about the summit and to register, please [click here](#).**

Please note there is no charge to attend; however, tickets are required and last year's event was completely booked. So reserve your ticket today!



NYS ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN TASK FORCE INVITES YOU TO THE

# NEW YORK STATE AAPI SUMMIT

May 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Albany, NY

## WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
6:00pm – 9:00pm  
Hudson Ballroom, Hilton Albany  
40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY

## WORKSHOP DAY

Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am – 4:00pm  
Legislative Office Building  
198 State Street, Albany, NY

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REGISTER: [NYSAAPISUMMIT.COM](https://nysaapisummit.com)

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions or if there is any assistance we can provide. You can always reach me at [burdickc@nyassembly.gov](mailto:burdickc@nyassembly.gov) or by calling (914) 244-4450. My staff and I are always ready to help.

Please also follow me on [Facebook](#), [Twitter/X](#), and [Instagram](#) for continued up-to-date information.

Miss any of our previous newsletters? You can [find them here](#).

Sincerely yours,

Office of Assemblymember Chris Burdick |  
[Website](#)





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